

Statement of
Mr. James E. Webb, Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
before the
Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences
United States Senate
June 7, 1961

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

For myself, Mr. Gilpatric, and Dr. Seaborg, I should like to thank you for the opportunity to appear jointly to present the national space program which President Kennedy has recommended to the Congress.

On March 24th the President submitted a request for an increase of \$125 million in the civilian space program. This submission was (1) to fund more adequately the F-1 1 1/2 million-pound-thrust engine which continues to show real promise as a basic building block for large boosters, and (2) to provide funds to step up the C-2 version of the Saturn booster to increase the Saturn capability from about 20 thousand pounds in a low earth orbit to over 40 thousand pounds. There were other items included, but they were all based on the President's decision that we should proceed at once to plan and carry out manned space flight projects beyond the Mercury program and to proceed as rapidly as possible toward the practical utilization of the scientific and technological information and capability gained through our space effort. To utilize the technology which was

emerging from our investment in space, work toward applications of tremendous value was included in such areas as communications satellites and weather satellites.

On May 24th, the House of Representatives authorized the President's initial requests and in some programs authorized increases. The results of action by the House are now before you in H.R. 6874.

On May 25th, President Kennedy reported to the Congress that, regarding the space program, "with the advice of the Vice President, who is Chairman of the National Space Council, we have examined where we are strong and where we are not, where we may succeed and where we may not." The President then made additional policy recommendations, in these words: "Now it is time to take longer strides -- time for a great new American enterprise -- time for this nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on earth."

Having stated these views with respect to space, the President then used these words: "Let it be clear -- and this is a judgment which the members of Congress must finally make -- let it be clear that I am asking the Congress and the country to accept a firm commitment to a new course of action -- a course which will last for many years and carry very heavy costs. . . ."

The following day, May 26th, the President submitted additional

estimates of new obligational authority needed for the fiscal year 1962 amounting to \$549 million for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, \$77 million for the Department of Defense, \$23 million for the Atomic Energy Commission, and \$53 million dollars for the Weather Bureau of the Department of Commerce.

With your permission, I should like to indicate the main areas of increase for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and then Mr. Gilpatric and Dr. Seaborg will explain the increases for the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission.

In the 549 million dollars increase for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are the following:

For the Apollo spacecraft and for supporting research facilities and work in the life sciences, \$202,500,000;

For the F-1 engine, with needed test and other facilities, for the Nova vehicle with necessary test and other facilities, and activities related to an aggressive beginning on the Nova vehicle, \$121.5 million dollars;

For unmanned lunar exploration, \$56 million;

For general supporting research, tracking-station facilities, sounding-rocket programs, and advanced-facility design, \$74 million;

To speed up both the research and a start toward a transitional system of communications satellites, \$50 million;

For engine development for the nuclear rocket Rover, \$23 million;

For the purchase and launch of additional Tiros weather satellites so that one can be kept continuously in orbit until the Weather Bureau is able to place in operation its world-wide system based on the Nimbus satellite, \$22 million dollars.

The above increases, added to those previously recommended by President Eisenhower and President Kennedy, constitute a total budget request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the fiscal year 1962 of \$1,784,300,000. My associates and I are prepared to present the details of this budget request following the statements to be made by Mr. Gilpatric and Dr. Seaborg.

The sums requested are necessary to an adequate national space program and to a rapid build-up toward the accomplishment of the objectives which have been stated by the President. These requests, taken together with those to be presented on behalf of the other agencies, constitute a hard hitting, well-rounded, national space effort.

In the execution of this very important program, the President has directed each of us holding a major management responsibility to work closely with the officials in other agencies concerned, to make every effort to use the most efficient resources available to the Government wherever they may be, and to keep the Vice President and staff of the Space Council thoroughly abreast of our efforts. For myself, I would like to say that I have never found better teamwork than has been achieved in the development

of this program, and I am proud to be associated in this effort with the two men here with me today and with the Department of Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Weather Bureau, the Federal Aviation Agency, and all who are working with us.